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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Nigeria:* draft resolution

Protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration[4] and review document[4] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all other relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, including resolution 54/225,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

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Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[5] and emphasizing the universal and unified character of the Convention,

Recalling the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is a part,[6] and recalling also the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and also affected by, inter alia, their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as sea level rise, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation Phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Welcomes the establishment of the working group on the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon within the framework of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas as well as on the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport and the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction in the Caribbean Sea, which present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the increasing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Bearing in mind also the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea and in so doing to promote the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea,

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[5] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further and seek their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance in the context of sustainable development,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the adequate support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* the need for the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea;

2. *Encourages* the further protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea, in accordance with the recommendations contained in its resolution 54/225 as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[7] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly[4] and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

3. *Calls on* the United Nations system to assist Caribbean countries in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and as a result of pollution by dumping of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals;

4. *Also calls on* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to actively support and further develop and implement the above-mentioned approach;

5. *Calls on* Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities and to the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session, under a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

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[7] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.